

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 /036 W
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P R 141350Z MAY 75
FM AMCONSUL TANGIER
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3066

UNCLAS TANGIER 0201

DEPT FOR AF/W FROM EASUM

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR NI
SUBJ: PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS

REF.: LAGOS 3353 AND 4249

1. FOLLOWING ARE PROPOSED REVISED REMARKS FOR CREDENTIALS CEREMONY:
2. QUOTE: IT IS MY HONOR AND GREAT PLEASURE TO PRESENT TO YOUR EXCELLENCY THE LETTERS OF CREDENCE BY WHICH THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES ACCREDITS ME AS HIS AMBASSADOR TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA. I ALSO TRANSMIT PRESIDENT FORD'S LETTER OF RECALL OF MY DISTINGUISHED PREDECESSOR, AMBASSADOR REINHARDT, WHO NOW OCCUPIES A KEY POSITION OF SENIOR RESPONSIBILITY IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE IN WASHINGTON.
3. ALL WHO HAVE A SENSE OF HISTORY HOPE FOR A CHANCE TO WITNESS THE UNFOLDING OF MAJOR EVENTS AND THE ARLY STAGES OF LASTING TRENDS. THOSE WHO LIVE IN NIGERIA TODAY HAVE THAT GOOD FORTUNE, AND I AM PROUD AND HAPPY TO BE AMONG THEM. NIGERIA IS MOVING WITH VIGOR AND CONFIDENCE TOWARD INEVITABLE ECONOMIC STRENGTH, CARRYING WITHIN ITS BORDERS ONE-FOURTH OF ALL OF AFRICA'S PEOPLE TO A HIGHER STANDARD OF LIVING, AND WE HERE TODAY WILL WATCH IT HAPPEN. NIGERIA'S RICH CULTURAL TRADITIONS AND VALUES WILL CLOAK THAT MATERIAL PROGRESS WITH A SOCIAL MEANING THAT WILL PRODUCE NOT ONLY A HIGHER STANDARD UNCLASSIFIED

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OF LIVING BUT A HIGHER QUALITY OF LIFE, AND WE HERE TODAY WILL WATCH IT HAPPEN. NIGERIA WILL MORE AND MORE TAKE ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE OF INFLUENCE IN THE COUNCILS OF NATIONS, CONTRIBUTING THE WISDOM OF ITS OWN EXPERIENCE IN ACCOMODATING A VARIETY

OF GROUPS AND INTERESTS INTO A MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL COMMON EFFORT,
AND WE HERE TODAY WILL WATCH THAT HAPPEN, TOO.

4. THE UNITED STATES IS FOLLOWING WITH GREAT INTEREST YOUR
CURRENT ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOP-
MENT, PARTICULARLY AS EXEMPLIFIED BY THE THIRD NATIONAL DEVELOP-
MENT PLAN AND THE PLAN FOR UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION. I LOOK
FORWARD TO DOING WHAT I CAN TO FORTIFY MY COUNTRY'S SUPPORT OF
THESE ENDEAVORS IN WAYS YOU DEEM USEFUL.

5. THE UNITED STATES MARCHES WITH NIGERIA IN PART BECAUSE WE
HEAR THE SAME DRUMMER. THOMAS PAINE, THOMAS JEFFERSON, AND
OTHER AMERICAN REVOLUTIONISTS WERE NOT UNKNOWN IN THE LITERATURE
OF NIGERIA'S INDEPENDENCE. MY COUNTRY AND YOURS SHARE THE
GREAT SOCIAL EXPERIMENT OF FEDERALISM WHEREBY WE SEEK TO SECURE
FOR OUR PEOPLES THE GREAT ABUNDANCE OF UNITY WITHOUT SACRIFICING
THE SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS OF VARIETY. AND AS MAJOR COUNTRIES IN
OUR DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE GLOBE, NIGERIA AND THE UNITED STATES
BOTH HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY FOR SPECIAL MATURITY OF WISDOM IN
OUR RELATIONS WITH OTHERS.

6. THE AFRICAN ANTECEDENTS OF AMERICAN CULTURE HAVE STRONG
ROOTS HERE IN NIGERIA. FOR THIS REASON AND FOR MANY OTHERS
WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO THE SECOND WORLD BLACK AND AFRICAN
FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS AND CULTURE TO BE HELD HERE. WE WISH
THE FESTIVAL ALL POSSIBLE SUCCESS. MAY I MENTION, YOUR
EXCELLENCY, THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL ALSO BE CELEBRATING A
GREAT FESTIVAL IN THE NEAR FUTURE, OUR 200TH ANNIVERSARY AS AN
INDEPENDENT COUNTRY. THE EVENTS OF 1776 SIGNALED A DECOLONIZA-
TION PROCESS THAT HAD GREAT SIGNIFICANCE FOR MANY NATIONS
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. WE ARE PERSUADED THAT BOTH THE BICENTEN-
NIAL AND THE FESTIVAL WILL CONTRIBUTE IN IMPORTANT WAYS TO
STRENGTHENED FRIENDSHIP AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

7. MY GOVERNMENT AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE THE GREATEST
ADMIRATION FOR THE REMARKABLE SUCCESS THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS
ACHIEVED IN NATIONAL RECONCILIATION AND REINTEGRATION. YOUR
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PERSONAL LEADERSHIP IN THIS EFFORT HAS WON FOR YOU A HIGH
PLACE AMONG WORLD STATESMEN. STATEMANSHIP HAS BEEN ALSO EVIDENT
IN NIGERIA'S ACTIONS ON THE WORLD STAGE. YOUR GOVERNMENT'S
CONSTRUCTIVE AND SKILLFUL DIPLOMACY HAS NURTURED ECONOMIC
COOPERATION BETWEEN THE FAR-FLUNG COUNTRIES OF THE CARIBBEAN,
AFRICAN AND PACIFIC REGIONS. ON THE CONTINENT OF AFRICA -- IN
THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY AND IN ITS BILATERAL RELATIONS
WITH AFRICAN STATES -- NIGERIA IS A LEADER, NOT ONLY BECAUSE
OF ITS RESOURCES AND THE ENERGY AND TALENTS OF ITS PEOPLE,
BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF NIGERIA'S MORAL STATURE AND ITS FIRM
COMMITMENT TO THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS. IN THE UNITED NATIONS
AND ELSEWHERE NIGERIAN COUNSEL COMMANDS RESPECT, FOR IT
COMBINES PRAGMATISM WITH PRINCIPLE.

8. YOUR EXCELLENCY, YOU CAN COUNT ON ME TO DEVOTE MY MOST ENERGETIC, WHOLE-HEARTED AND IMAGINATIVE EFFORTS TO THE ENRICHMENT OF THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN OUR TWO NATIONS. YOU CAN ALSO LOOK TO ME, IN OUR DIALOGUE TOGETHER, FOR OBJECTIVITY AND CANDOR. YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO EXPECT THE SAME FROM MY STAFF. AND I WOULD WANT NOTHING LESS FROM YOU. ONLY IN SUCH AN ENVIRONMENT AS THIS CAN OUR COLLABORATION BEST SERVE THE INTERESTS OF OUR COUNTRIES. AND ONLY THUS CAN WE BEST RESPOND TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE INDEPENDENCE THAT LINKS US WITH EACH OTHER IN AN INCREASINGLY INTERDEPENDENT WORLD. UNQUOTE.

9. THE TERM "YOUR EXCELLENCY" HAS BEEN ADDED BY AF. I AM NOT HAPPY WITH IT UNLESS ITS USAGE IS COMMON PRACTICE. HOW ABOUT "MR. CHAIRMAN"? ARE THERE OTHER ALTERNATIVES? EASTMAN

UNCLASSIFIED

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999

Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: CREDENTIALS PRESENTATION, FOREIGN RELATIONS

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE

Draft Date: 14 MAY 1975

Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960

Decaption Note:

Disposition Action: n/a

Disposition Approved on Date:

Disposition Authority: n/a

Disposition Case Number: n/a

Disposition Comment:

Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960

Disposition Event:

Disposition History: n/a

Disposition Reason:

Disposition Remarks:

Document Number: 1975TANGIE00201

Document Source: ADS

Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a

Executive Order: N/A

Errors: n/a

Film Number: D750169-0460

From: TANGIER

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197505100/baaaaeat.tel

Line Count: 126

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM

Office: ACTION AF

Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Original Handling Restrictions: n/a

Original Previous Classification: n/a

Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 3

Previous Channel Indicators:

Previous Classification: n/a

Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED

Review Authority: SmithRJ

Review Comment: n/a

Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 24 JUL 2003

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a

Review History: RELEASED <24 JUL 2003 by maginmm>; APPROVED <02 FEB 2004 by SmithRJ>

Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld

Declassified/Released

US Department of State

EO Systematic Review

05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:

Review Referrals: n/a

Review Release Date: n/a

Review Release Event: n/a

Review Transfer Date:

Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN

Status: NATIVE

Subject: n/a

TAGS: PFOR, NI, US

To: LAGOS INFO STATE

Type: TE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006